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http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/11/16/iraq.christians.targeted/

Earlier this month, the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** urged American officials to make a special effort to protect religious minorities in Iraq, such as Christians, Yazidis and Mandaeans.

"Given the United States' continued military presence there, we urge the administration to work with the Iraqi government to proactively heighten security at Christian and other minority religious sites.

"The United States also should press its allies in the region to be increasingly vigilant of the threats by extremists targeting religious minority communities and work together to reduce these threats, in order to secure their well being and help prevent the continued exodus of Christians and other minorities from the Middle East," said **USCIRF** chairman Leonard Leo.